

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:
Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-15 and 18 are allowable over the prior art of record.
2. The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious a graphical user interface (GUI) for creating or revising a rule that contains multiple conditions and an action to be taken when the conditions are satisfied, the GUI comprising first and second user-selectable elements, a rule-editing area that is configured to display, upon user selection of the second element, an action input field set for accepting a second user specification of: an action name identifying the action, and an action value for the action, wherein the action input field accepts user selection of the action name from a list of options for the action name and further accepts user input of text for the action value, wherein, after the second user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified action name and action value while the action input field set is displayed, and wherein the condition input field set and the action input field set are not displayed concurrently with each other and a rule preview area configured to provide, after the first and second user specifications, a display of a user-understandable representation of the rule comprising both the conditions and the action; the rule preview area being displayed both while the condition input field set is displayed and while the action input field set is displayed, the user-understandable representation including at least the user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of the conditions after the first user specification, and including at least the user-specified action name and action value for the action after the second user specification, as set forth in the specification and recited in the independent claims.

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3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "*Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance*"

Examiner's Amendment

4. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions by unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
5. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew Dommer (Reg. No. 65,758) on February 17, 2011.
6. The application has been amended as follows:
Claims 1, 6, 15 and 15 have been replaced with the following amended claims
Claims 5, 7, 9, 16 and 17 have been canceled

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory containing therein instructions that, when executed, generate on a display device a graphical user interface (GUI) for creating or revising a rule that contains multiple conditions and an action to be taken when the conditions are satisfied, the GUI comprising:

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first and second user-selectable elements;

a rule-editing area that is configured to:

(i) display, upon user selection of the first element, a condition input field set for accepting a first user specification of: (a) an attribute name for each of the conditions, (b) an attribute value for each of the conditions, and (c) a choice between an “and” logical operator and an “or” logical operator for logically connecting two or more of the conditions, wherein the condition input field set accepts user selection of the attribute name for each of the conditions from a list of options for the attribute name for each of the conditions and further accepts user input of text for the attribute value for each of the conditions, wherein, after the first user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of the conditions while the condition input field set is displayed, and

(ii) display, upon user selection of the second element, an action input field set for accepting a second user specification of: (d) an action name identifying the action, and (e) an action value for the action, wherein the action input field accepts user selection of the action name from a list of options for the action name and further accepts user input of text for the action value, wherein, after the second user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified action name and action value while the action input field set is displayed, and wherein the condition input field set and the action input field set are not displayed concurrently with each other; and

a rule preview area configured to provide, after the first and second user specifications, a display of a user-understandable representation of the rule comprising both the conditions and the action, the rule preview area being displayed both while the condition input field set is displayed and while the action input field set is displayed, the user-understandable representation including at least the user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of

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the conditions after the first user specification, and including at least the user-specified action name and action value for the action after the second user specification.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the rule-preview area is configured to provide the display of the user-understandable representation of both the conditions and the action in a read-only format so that a user cannot edit the conditions in the rule-preview area and cannot edit the action in the rule-preview area.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the rule-editing area is configured to accept user input to create or modify any of the conditions upon user selection of the first element.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the rule contains at least two actions, and wherein the rule-editing area is configured to accept user input to create or modify any of the actions upon user selection of the second element.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable memory of claim [[5]]1, wherein the rule-editing area contains, for each particular condition of the multiple conditions:

a first menu having a set of user-selectable options for determining the attribute name of the particular condition;

a second menu having a set of user-selectable options for determining the operator of the particular condition; and

a text-entry field to accept user input for determining the attribute value of the particular condition.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the rule-editing area contains:

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a menu having a set of user-selectable options for determining the action name of the action; and

a text-entry field to accept user input for determining the action value of the action.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the first user-selectable element is adjacent to the second user-selectable element.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the first and second user-selectable elements are each either user-selectable buttons or user-selectable text elements.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the first and second user-selectable elements are each graphical tabs.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 1, wherein the rule may be used to process textual information.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 13, wherein the rule may be used to process textual information contained in an email message.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method implemented by a computing system for providing a graphical user interface (GUI) for creating or revising a rule that contains multiple conditions and an action to be taken when the conditions are satisfied, the method comprising:

providing first and second user-selectable elements;

providing a rule-editing area that is configured to:

(i) display, upon user selection of the first element, a condition input field set for accepting a first user specification of: (a) an attribute name for each of the conditions, (b) an attribute value for each of the conditions, and (c) a choice between an “and” logical operator and

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an “or” logical operator for logically connecting two or more of the conditions, wherein the condition input field set accepts user selection of the attribute name for each of the conditions from a list of options for the attribute name for each of the conditions and further accepts user input of text for the attribute value for each of the conditions, wherein, after the first user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of the conditions while the condition input field set is displayed, and

(ii) display, upon user selection of the second element, an action input field set for accepting a second user specification of: (d) an action name identifying the action, and (e) an action value for the action, wherein the action input field accepts user selection of the action name from a list of options for the action name and further accepts user input of text for the action value, wherein, after the second user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified action name and action value while the action input field set is displayed, and wherein the condition input field set and the action input field set are not displayed concurrently with each other; and

providing a rule preview area configured to provide, after the first and second user specifications, a display of a user-understandable representation of the rule comprising both the conditions and the action, the rule preview area being displayed both while the condition input field set is displayed and while the action input field set is displayed, the user-understandable representation including at least the user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of the conditions after the first user specification, and including at least the user-specified action name and action value for the action after the second user specification.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a graphical user interface (GUI) that may

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be used to create or revise a rule that contains multiple conditions and an action to be taken when the conditions are satisfied, wherein the system includes:

one or more processors; and

computer-readable memory having computer-executable instructions contained therein for performing a method, the method comprising:

providing first and second user-selectable elements;

providing a rule-editing area that is configured to:

(i) display, upon user selection of the first element, a condition input field set for accepting a first user specification of: (a) an attribute name for each of the conditions, (b) an attribute value for each of the conditions, and (c) a choice between an “and” logical operator and an “or” logical operator for logically connecting two or more of the conditions, wherein the condition input field set accepts user selection of the attribute name for each of the conditions from a list of options for the attribute name for each of the conditions and further accepts user input of text for the attribute value for each of the conditions, wherein, after the first user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of the conditions while the condition input field set is displayed, and

(ii) display, upon user selection of the second element, an action input field set for accepting a second user specification of: (d) an action name identifying the action, and (e) an action value for the action, wherein the action input field accepts user selection of the action name from a list of options for the action name and further accepts user input of text for the action value, wherein, after the second user specification, the rule-editing area displays a user-specified action name and action value while the action input field set is displayed, and wherein the condition input field set and the action input field set are not displayed concurrently with each other; and

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providing a rule preview area configured to provide, after the first and second user specifications, a display of a user-understandable representation of the rule comprising both the conditions and the action, the rule preview area being displayed both while the condition input field set is displayed and while the action input field set is displayed, the user-understandable representation including at least the user-specified attribute name and attribute value for each of the conditions after the first user specification, and including at least the user-specified action name and action value for the action after the second user specification.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed Wasel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2669. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs (7:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Avellino can be reached on (571) 272-3905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mohamed Wasel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454
February 27, 2011